



**Written Testimony of
Glenn Marshall, Commissioner
Department of Labor
Education Committee
March 5, 2012**

Good Afternoon Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmenn, Senator Boucher, Representative Giuliano and members of the Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with written testimony in order to express my support for **House Bill #5351: AAC Vocational-Technical Schools**.

H.B.# 5351 places the Labor Commissioner on a newly established Technical High School System Board. The Department of Labor, through its Office of Workforce Competiveness (OWC), serves as the Governor's principal workforce development policy agency. One of OWC's fundamental goals is to ensure that the state's education and training pipeline is well prepared to meet the rising skill demands of Connecticut business and industry through its focus on three fundamental policy objectives, growing talent, using talent and enriching talent.

However, there must be an increased focus on connecting our youth in the technical high schools with the needs of our changing workforce. The OWC is currently preparing specific skill standards with its partners for use in the technical high school and regional community- technical college systems core curriculum.

Therefore, given the role that OWC currently plays in this process, the Labor Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee would be a vital member of the Technical High School System Board. I look forward to being a partner with the Education Committee as it continues to develop education workforce policy for Connecticut's youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony. Please feel free to contact me or my staff if you need additional information.